

PDG Connection

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A Message from the Deputy Associate Superintendent

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to another school year. The ECE team is excited to be embarking on another year of high-quality programming with you as you endeavor to serve your communities' 4-year olds. As an indication of our progress, we will be adding 5 new programs this year! On August 1st-3rd, we were visited by our federal officers for our on-site monitoring. We received positive feedback, particularly regarding our site visits. Thank you so much to Fowler and Paloma school districts for letting us visit on the second day of classes. Your programs represented the PDG program well!



As we begin a new year, there is some important information that you need to know:

- Changes are coming to the format of the state-level community of practice (COP). The purpose of the COP will be to disseminate information and to provide an opportunity for HNC representatives to network. A standing item on the agenda will be a 45-minute slot for the grant administrator to provide valuable updates and other facets of the work. HNC representatives will also have the opportunity to highlight successes from their communities. Two dates have been identified for this year's meetings: October 25th and January 24th. To maximize the time representatives will be out of their usual business places, each meeting will be from 9am-4pm, with an hour lunch break at 12. It will be the responsibility of each HNC to identify who will attend the meeting on behalf of the community.
- There will be 3 PDG newsletters this year, to be distributed in August/September, January, and April. The content of the newsletters will vary, but I will always provide an update and upcoming important dates will be highlighted.

As always, if you need to contact me, send an email to Nicol.Russell@azed.gov, or call 602. 364.1530.

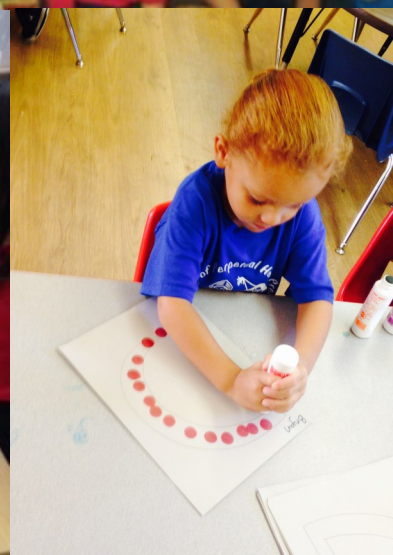
Sincerely,
Nicol Russell
Deputy Associate Superintendent for Early Childhood &
Head Start State Collaboration Office Director

Our Mission

To provide leadership and support to schools, organizations, educators, families and communities in implementing programs that assist all children from birth through age 8 to become successful lifelong learners.

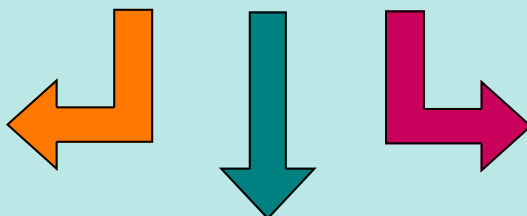


PDG Fun from Year One!



User Guides

ALEAT



GME

[How to Submit a
Monitoring
Instrument](#)

[User Access and
Management](#)

ECQUIP has been

REVISED

What's New?

- ⇒ **Changed:** "Indicator 1.3"
- ⇒ **Added:** "Standard 5: Fiscal Review"

Click [HERE](#) to access the revised
ECQUIP manual

[Gaining Access to the
Funding Application](#)

[Reimbursement
Requests](#)

Accessing ADE's PDG Portal

- ⇒ Access to PDG resources are just a few clicks away! Visit <http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/> and click on the purple PDG widget located on the top right of the webpage and also pictured below:

Preschool Development
Grant

- ⇒ Here you will learn about the Preschool Development Grant, participating programs, programs awarded-to-date, community meeting resources, and get links to federal PDG resources.
- ⇒ For useful materials specific to participating PDG programs, click Resources for Participating Programs at the bottom of the page and also pictured below:

Resources for Participating Programs

- ⇒ Here you can access Grants Management resources, download publications, and listen to recorded webinars and State Level COP meetings.

Transitioning from SAIS to AZEDS

Elizabeth Hamilton

Are you having a hard time generating SAIS numbers for your students? As of July 1, 2016 the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has a new, more efficient and less cumbersome way to generate SAIS numbers for users. The new SAIS database is called AZEDS. Common Logon and SAIS Online will no longer be operational as of August 1, 2016. Student identification numbers will now be called "AZED numbers," which we formerly called SAIS numbers. LEAs will get their AZED numbers through their Student Information Systems (SIS) such as Power School, Synergy, or Infinite Campus. Head Start and private care providers will need a new application called, "AZEDS Identity-Create," added to your ADE Connect accounts to generate AZED numbers. The

system will use information-matching criteria to search ADE's database to ensure there are not multiple AZED numbers for a student.

If you need this application added to your ADE Connect account, please let your ADE early childhood specialist know right away. The process of generating AZED numbers for students should be quick and easy. This process must be completed before starting Gold portfolios because Gold portfolios require you to have a AZED numbers for each student. For any further questions please reach out to your early childhood specialist.

2016/2017

✓ GOLD Checkpoints

- October 21
- February 10
- June 2
- July 31

WHAT IS THE PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM?

The Preschool Development Grants program supports state efforts to build or enhance their infrastructure to provide high-quality preschool programs and expand high-quality preschool programs in high-need communities. Grantees will:



Create or expand high-quality, inclusive preschool programs in high-need communities;



Build infrastructure and fund quality improvements to support high-quality preschool programs;



Ensure strong partnerships between school and early learning community providers;



Align curricula and instruction within a birth through third grade continuum;



Create sustainable programs by coordinating existing early learning funds; and



Use federal grant dollars and other matching funds to support their efforts.

YEARS ONE & TWO

In December 2014, the U.S. Department of Education announced year two awards were announced, totaling \$747 million.



40,216 Children be served newly created s



TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED: YEAR 1

31,391



TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED: YEAR 2

39,669



*One child pictured is equal to approximately 1,000 children served

Department of Education and Health and Human Services awarded grants totaling \$226M to 18 states and in October 2015, the total funding was \$237M.

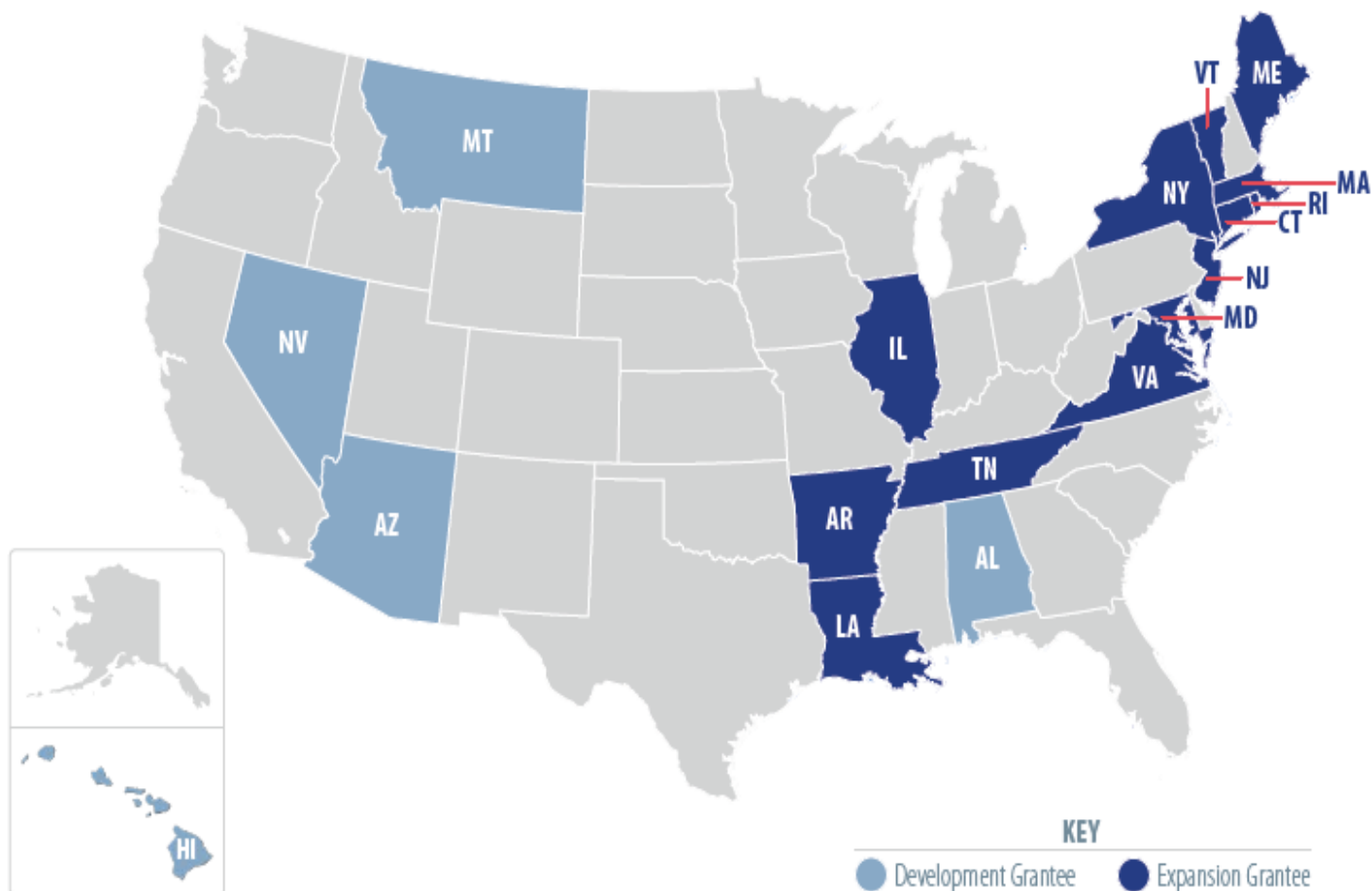
en to
ed by
lots



30,844 Existing
PreK slots
to be improved



250 High-need
communities
to be served



**TOTAL CHILDREN
SERVED BY THE
END OF YEAR 4
171,489**

NOTE: Newly created and improved slots, and number of children served figures are derived from FY2014 Preschool Development Grants applications.

Source: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/preschooldevelopmentgrants/pdgbrochure1and2.pdf>

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Important Dates for 2016/2017



Locations for all meetings and conferences are to be determined. Details will be sent to PDG programs in the near future.

October 2016

25th: PDG Statewide Community of Practice (COP) Meeting

January 2017

9th: PDG Statewide Community of Practice (COP) Meeting

February 2017

16th & 17th: Early Childhood Special Education Summit

June 2017

TBD: 2017 Early Childhood Education Summer Institute



October 2017

11th: Kindergarten Transition Summit

December 2017

8th & 9th: Family Engagement Conference

To register for free ECE professional development, visit ems.azed.gov and search for “Early Childhood Education” under Program Area

Enrollment in Quality First:

What This Means for Your Program

Leslie Totten, Director of Quality First

As part of your participation in the Preschool Development Grant, your program will be enrolled in the Quality First program through First Things First. Quality First partners with child care and preschool providers across Arizona to improve the quality of early learning for children birth to 5. Quality First has established a statewide standard of quality for early care and education programs and funds quality improvements that research proves help children thrive. This includes professional development for teachers to expand their skills in working with young children and coaching to help programs provide learning environments that nurture the emotional, social, language and cognitive development of every child.

As a Quality First participant, your program will receive support in four key areas:

1. Quality First Coaching – These coaching services will be provided to your program to support ongoing improvement efforts through regular on-site visits in collaboration with your ADE Specialist.
2. Quality First Assessment – Regular assessments will occur with detailed reports to provide feedback on program observations to build goals and quality improvement plans.
3. Financial Incentives – We know that quality costs money, and to support the opportunity to overcome barriers to quality, financial incentives are provided each year to purchase materials, resources, and support to improve services to children.
4. Specialized Technical Assistance – Each PDG site participating in Quality First has access to a Child Care Health Consultant, a Mental Health Consultant, as well as an Early Care and Inclusion Coach to provide specialized consultation in critical areas of need.

All of these services are offered in support of your PDG participation and coaches/consultants will partner together with you to make the experience one that is supportive and creates new improvement opportunities. For more information about Quality First (QF), please visit our website at <http://www.qualityfirstaz.com/> or contact the QF office at qualityfirst@azftf.gov (602-771-5000).



The Empower Program

A Public Health Initiative of the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

Assisting children in discovering new ways in which they can live a healthy life is one of the best gifts early care providers can give to young learners. The Empower Program, developed by ADHS, seeks to do just that: Empower young children to make healthy choices for life. Programs participating in the Preschool Development Grant are required to participate in the Empower Program and in doing so are eligible for an array of benefits. These benefits include reduced licensing fees, resources available through an Empower Pack, a state-issued facility designation, and an Empower guidebook. Programs participating in Empower agree to implement 10 standards surrounding the topics of healthy eating, sun safety, promoting good oral health practices, and providing a smoke-free atmosphere. For more information on how to support your Empower Program, visit the ADHS website dedicated to Empower at <http://azdhs.gov/prevention/nutrition-physical-activity/empower/index.php>

[July 2016 Empower Newsletter](#)

Ask Alma!

Alma Quintana is an ECE Program Specialist and the ECE PDG Administrator for the Arizona Department of Education



Q: If there is a child in my center/preschool/district who qualifies for Special Education services but whose family does not meet the income eligibility requirement (*most in need*) of the PDG, is this child still eligible to receive a PDG funded slot?

A: No. Although one factor in recruitment of *most in need* is the identification of children with special needs, the baseline prerequisite for eligibility states that families of children in PDG funded slots must have a total income of 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. ([2017 PDG Guidance Manual](#), p. 6 & 12)

Q: Can my center/preschool/district charge a PDG eligible family a registration fee?

A: The only time a center/preschool/district can charge a PDG eligible family a fee is if the child is enrolled full-time in a PDG slot **and** attending before or after school care. If a PDG eligible child is only attending during PDG hours then the center/preschool/district should not charge a fee of any kind.

Q: Can you please clarify if children in PDG funded slots are allowed to nap during PDG hours?

A: The 2017 PDG Guidance Manual states,

"Arizona childcare licensing rules no longer require a nap time for any child in a childcare program. However, a site should have supplies available in case a child requests to lie down...Sub-grantees should also note that ECERS-R, Indicator 11 Nap/rest addresses a nap time or quiet time for children in a program for four hours or more."

([2017 PDG Guidance Manual](#), p. 13)

In other words, since children attending pre-K through a PDG funded slot are in a classroom at minimum six hours per day, a nap time or quiet time is allowable and suggestable for programs to meet the individual needs of each child.

For more information regarding sleeping and napping in early childhood education settings, please visit [Code R9-5-511: Sleeping and Napping](#) and [ECERS-R, Indicator 11 Nap/rest](#)

Do you have a PDG-related question? We are happy to help!

Send your inquiries to PDG@azed.gov

Early Childhood Contact Information

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Deputy Associate Superintendent &
Head Start State Collaboration Director
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Nicol.Russell@azed.gov

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Project Specialist
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Kristy.Rosen@azed.gov

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Early Childhood Education Fiscal
Program Specialist
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Juliana.Panqueva@azed.gov

ECE Program Specialist	High Needs Community (HNC)	Monitoring	School Improvement	Counties
Alma Quintana 602-364-1910 Alma.Quintana@azed.gov	Avondale Tolleson Littleton Paloma Riverside	Gila Bend, Littleton, Morristown, Nadaburg, Phoenix El	Peach Springs	Maricopa County: Aguila, Arlington, Avondale, Buckeye, Dysart, Gila Bend, Isaac, Laveen, Liberty, Litchfield, Littleton, Madison, Mobile, Morristown, Murphy, Nadaburg, Palo Verde, Paloma, Phoenix, Riverside, Tolleson, Union, Saddle Mountain, Sentinel, Wickenburg
Erika Argueta 602-542-3160 Erika.Argueta@azed.gov	Gadsden/ San Luis Crane Somerton	Kingman, Valentine, Wellton, Yuma, Yucca	Peach Springs	La Paz County: Bouse, Parker, Quartzsite, Salome, Wenden Pima County: Ajo Yuma County: Crane, Gadsden, Hyder, Mohawk Valley, Somerton, Wellton, Yuma Mohave County: Bullhead City, Hackberry, Kingman, Lake Havasu, Mohave Valley, Owens, Topock, Valentine, Yucca, Littlefield, Peach Springs, and Colorado City

ECE Program Specialist	High Needs Community (HNC)	Monitoring	School Improvement	Counties
Elizabeth Hamilton 602-364-1948 Elizabeth.Hamilton@azed.gov	Fowler Glendale Pendergast Stanfield	Blue Ridge, Florence, Fowler, Picacho El, Red Rock, Stanfield	Coolidge Eloy	Navajo County: Blue Ridge, Heber-Overgaard, Holbrook, Joseph City, Show Low, Snowflake, Whiteriver, Winslow Maricopa County: Fowler, Glendale, Pendergast, Pinal County: Eloy, Picacho, Ray, Red Rock, Superior, Toltec, Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Florence, J. O. Combs, Maricopa, Sacaton, Stanfield
TBD 602-542-1102	Roosevelt	Roosevelt	Roosevelt (Tent.)	Maricopa County: Roosevelt
Lori Masseur 602-542-3136 Lori.Masseur@azed.gov	Alhambra Wilson Osborn	Alhambra, Kayenta, Round Valley, Vernon	Red Mesa Ganado (Tent.)	Apache County: Alpine, Chinle, Concho, Ganado, McNary, Red Mesa, Round Valley, Sanders, St. Johns, Vernon, Window Rock Coconino County: Chevelon Butte, Coconino County Accommodation, Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Maine Consolidated, Page, Tuba City, Williams and Fredonia Navajo County: Cedar, Kayenta, Pinon Maricopa County: Alhambra, Wilson, Osborn
Ariana Lopez 602-542-4615 Ariana.lopez@azed.gov	Douglas Willcox Santa Cruz	Cochise, Naco, Nogales, San Simon, Sonoita	Douglas (Tent.)	Cochise County: Apache, Ash Creek, Benson, Bisbee, Bowie, Cochise, Double Adobe, Douglas, Elfrida, Fort Huachuca, McNeal, Naco, Palominas, Pearce, Pomerene, San Simon, Sierra Vista, St. David, Tombstone, Willcox Santa Cruz County: Nogales, Patagonia, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Valley, Sonoita
Terry Doolan 602-542-1137 Terry.Doolan@azed.gov	Kinder Kollege			Maricopa County: Kinder Kollege

ECE Program Specialist	High Needs Community (HNC)	Monitoring	School Improvement	Counties
Millie Archer 602-364-1966 Millie.Archer@azed.gov	Sunnyside Flowing Wells Tucson Uni- fied	Empire, Oracle, Pima, Solomon, Tanque Verde, Thatcher	Sunnyside	Pima County: Altar Valley, Amphitheater, Baboquivari, Catalina Foothills, Continental, Empire, Flowing Wells, Marana, Pima Accommodation, Redington, Sahuarita, San Fernando, Sunnyside, Tanque Verde, Tucson, Vail Graham County: Bonita, Fort Thomas, Graham County Special Services, Klondyke, Pima, Safford, Solomon, Thatcher Pinal County: Mammoth-San Manuel, Oracle
Sas Jakeo-Singer 602-542-3183 Sas.Jakeo-Singer@azed.gov	Creighton Balsz Tempe	Chandler, Paradise Valley, Payson, San Carlos, Scottsdale	San Carlos	Gila County: Gila County Regional, Globe, Hayden-Winkelman, Miami, Payson, Pine Strawberry, San Carlos, Tonto Basin, Young Maricopa County: Chandler, Creighton, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Higley, Kyrene, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, Tempe Greenlee County: Blue, Clifton, Duncan, Eagle, Greenlee County Accommodation, Morenci
Eric Bucher 602-542-3143 Eric.Bucher@azed.gov	Washington Peoria Cartwright Deer Valley	Ash Fork Joint, Canon, Cartwright, Crown King, Hillside, Mayer, Seligman, Yarnell	N/A	Maricopa County: (North) Cartwright, Cave Creek, Deer Valley, Peoria, Washington Yavapai County: Ash Fork Joint, Bagdad, Beaver Creek, Camp Verde, Canon, Chino Valley, Clarkdale-Jerome, Congress, Cottonwood-Oak Creek, Crown King, Hillside, Humboldt, Kirkland, Mayer, Prescott, Sedona-Oak Creek, Seligman, Skull Valley, Walnut Grove, Williamson Valley, Yarnell

A Note About Contacting ADE ECE Specialists:

Although ADE ECE Program Specialists are assigned to specific geographic locations throughout Arizona, please do not hesitate to contact any available Specialist when calling or emailing with questions. If your designated specialist for your area is unavailable, feel free to reach out to another ADE ECE Specialist as they are all equally knowledgeable and eager to assist.

Thank you!